

Effects of grazing management on riparian ecosystems in the upper Midwestern United States.

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Topic: Understanding Ecosystems

Subtopic: Managing interactions and relationships instead of individual resources

This study evaluates the effects of intensive rotational grazing (IRG) of riparian areas on the stream ecosystem. Riparian areas on livestock farms provide important habitat for wildlife and a filter for pollutants, in addition to providing water for livestock. Traditional grazing management often leads to degradation of these sensitive habitats. Fencing livestock out of riparian areas can ameliorate these problems but presents logistical problems both for farmers and for regulatory agencies. Intensive rotational grazing may be a reasonable alternative to fencing of riparian areas. Appropriate management of grazing in these areas may meet the needs of the farmer without causing serious harm to the environment. The first year of a 2 to 3 year study of riparian habitats of trout streams in Southwestern Wisconsin has been completed. Fish, aquatic invertebrate, bird, small mammal, and terrestrial vegetation communities of rotationally grazed riparian areas are compared with those of continuously grazed riparian areas and ungrazed riparian buffer strips. Preliminary results suggest that fish and aquatic invertebrate communities tend to respond to watershed scale differences, whereas terrestrial wildlife groups appear to respond to local land use conditions. Management recommendations will be developed from our results.



To foster the science and the art of soil, water, and related natural resources management to achieve sustainability.

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Laura Paine
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Dear Ms. Paine:

Your paper, "Effects of grazing management on riparian ecosystems in the upper Midwestern United States," has been selected by the Soil and Water Conservation Society's 1997 Annual Conference Program Committee for presentation as a poster at the Society's 52nd annual conference in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. The Program Committee has scheduled poster sessions to be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton City Centre. Your poster session will take place on Wednesday, July 23, from 10:15-11:45, at which time you will need to be present at your poster. Please set up your poster on Tuesday, July 22, from 11:00 am-5:00 pm. Tear down will take place on Wednesday, July 23, from 5:30-7:30 pm or Thursday, July 24, from 8:00-10:00 am.

We will publish abstracts in the July/August 1997 issue of the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*. Abstracts will then be indexed in the November/December 1997 issue of the journal. To facilitate the production of the packet of abstracts, please resubmit your abstract to Jennifer Pemble as soon as possible, following the enclosed Abstract Submission Requirements.

Please review the enclosed "Tips for Effective Oral and Poster Presentations." Tables will be available in the poster area for handouts you may have.

Please do not hesitate to contact Meetings Coordinator, Jennifer Pemble, extension 18, if you have questions about your participation in the meeting. We look forward to seeing in you in Toronto.

Sincerely,

David Cressman, Chair
1997 Annual Conference Program Committee

Enc. - "Tips for Effective Oral and Poster Presentations"
Abstract Submission Requirements
Pre-registration materials

PS: It is the responsibility of persons presenting voluntary papers to pay the conference registration fee and all other expenses related to their participation in the conference.